ALOHA
Asynchronous Local/Overseas Hospital Academic
SYSTEM

Powered by Sakai

BACKGROUND: Graduate Medical Education (GME) has undergone rapid and irreversible change in the last decade creating significant challenges for both students and faculty. Specifically, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) trainee work hour restrictions and the Competency Outcomes Project have required significant changes in the way post graduate training is organized and delivered. Our goal was to create a tele-educational portal within our established asynchronous telehealth system that will meet the needs of Tripler Army Medical Center's GME programs. The Asynchronous Local/Overseas Hospital Academic (ALOHA) System is a course management program built upon the Sakai learning management software.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION: The Sakai learning management software is a widely accepted educational platform in use by over 300 colleges and universities. Sakai was chosen for the ALOHA tele-education portal based on the open-source architecture, its compatibility with existing DoD computer systems, and the ability for users to design software tools to meet unique educational demands. Sakai provides multiple features to supplement and enhance teaching and learning and has tools to help organize communication and collaborative work. The ALOHA system supports the following functionality:

1. Provides digitally recorded educational lectures in an asynchronous ("store-and-forward") mode throughout the medical center for GME. This 1) ensures a core curriculum for all residents; 2) creates a curriculum for night shift residents who would otherwise miss scheduled educational activities due to work hour limitations/restrictions and 3) reduces demands on clinical teaching staff to offer duplicate educational activities for both day and night resident teams.

2. Curriculum Management: Individual training programs have several specialty rotations, each with its own specific learning content. The ALOHA system organizes and delivers this educational content in a user-friendly platform accessible anywhere thereby reducing technological hurdles that interfere with learning.

3. The ALOHA system contains powerful metrics tools for residency directors that ensure active trainee participation and facilitate the transition to competency outcomes required by the ACGME.

CURRENT STATUS: The ALOHA system has captured >1,000 digital lectures and stores >900 educational resources for its nearly 200 users in a dozen different modules. It has become integral to the Pediatric and Family Medicine residency programs, and the current Sakai infrastructure will allow for rapid expansion to other residency training programs both inside and outside of our institution.

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